



Sheila Dixon

*Mayor,
Baltimore*

250 City Hall • Baltimore Maryland 21202
410-396-3835 • Fax: 410-576-9425

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 19, 2007

CONTACT:
Anthony McCarthy
(410) 869-6079 (Cell)

Mayor Dixon Announces Adoption of Strategies to Strengthen Baltimore Families

Baltimore, MD (September 19, 2007) – Mayor Sheila Dixon was joined by members of the National League of Cities to announce that the City of Baltimore will adopt the League's Platform for Strengthening Families and Improving Outcomes for Children and Youth. The Mayor promised to establish the essential infrastructure needed for a sustained community effort to achieve the platform's objectives.

"I believe that we need to take steps now and continue to move forward by investing in our families, our children, and our youth," said Mayor Dixon. "Central to my vision for a cleaner, greener, healthier and safer Baltimore is the creation of an environment that supports the development of the human potential of every Baltimore City resident, beginning with our children."

The National League of Cities (NLC) developed the City Platform for Strengthening Families and Improving Outcomes for Children and Youth. The platform outlines the essential tasks necessary for sustained progress, including identifying needs and priorities, promoting effective city-school collaboration, encouraging and supporting youth leadership, and measuring progress over time. NLC's Institute for Youth, Education, and Families will support Baltimore's adoption and implementation of the City Platform by providing information, examples from other cities and towns, access to national experts, and monitoring of progress on the Platform's action steps.

The Mayor announced commitment to implementing concrete action steps listed in the Platform (details can be found at http://www.nlc.org/iyef/a_city_platform), including assessing family needs and strengths throughout the community, expanding community schools and partnerships, mentoring programs for at risk youth, ending childhood lead poisoning, implementing programs to assist ex-offenders transitioning back into the community, and developing and expanding after school programs. In addition to the action steps listed in the platform, the City of Baltimore is incorporating strategies to strengthen families in its signature mentoring program, Baltimore Rising and its re-entry pilot, Reconciliation, Reintegration and Rising.

"Strong families form the foundation of vibrant, thriving cities," said Donald J. Borut, Executive Director of the National League of Cities. "We applaud Mayor Dixon and the City of Baltimore for adopting NLC's Platform for Strengthening Families and bringing key community stakeholders together to help children, youth, and families succeed."

#

Please visit our website at www.baltimorecity.gov